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Baseball field demolition sparks frustration at Parc-Extension council

DYLAN ADAMS LEMAÇON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
dylan@newsfirst.ca

Parc-Extension's borough council returned from its summer break on Tuesday evening, September 2nd, to a packed room, where residents once again pressed officials on the planned demolition of a baseball field at Parc Prévost.

Families, children, and coaches filled the chamber, many wearing their team gear. It was a follow-up to earlier protests over the loss of baseball space in the neighborhood.

The evening began with regular borough business. The mayor highlighted the adoption of an urbanism plan linked to the abandoned Chinese hospital near Saint-Michel, noting: "We are really happy about this news. Despite economic constraints, the borough continues to find a way to develop its social housing."

Councillor Mary Deros offered thanks to borough staff for their work during August's many events and festivities and reminded drivers and cyclists to be cautious with the school year underway: "Drivers and cyclists, be careful with our kids." She also urged residents to remember the upcoming November municipal elections: "Please go vote."

Councillor Sylvain Ouellet announced new signage coming to the neighborhood, while Councillor Josué Corvil reminded the room that September 10 marks Suicide Prevention Day.

Baseball concerns dominate question period

The real focus of the night came during question period, beginning with Maxime Brossard, president of the Jarry Amateur Baseball Association, who attended with his daughter Margot. He argued that his association was not properly warned about the demolition of Parc Prévost's field and that promised solutions have yet to materialize.

Margot asked directly: "What will the borough do to meet the baseball association's requirements?"

Mayor Laurence Lavigne Lalonde apologized, saying she had been under the impression that the association had been notified, and stressed that no demolition was imminent. She added that time slots remain available at Parc Prévost for the moment and that the borough wants to work with the association to find solutions.

Another resident, Maeva Willard, and her mother presented a petition calling for renovations to the field rather than its destruction. Maeva, who has played for five years, told council she has seen her playing time shrink each season as schedules tighten.

The mayor responded that the borough will not reverse its decision, but insisted that existing fields can still meet the association's needs. She said many allocated time slots go unused and that adjustments could be made: "We must reorganize the hours of those who use the fields."

Later, resident Sébastien Despelteau, joined by his daughter, criticized the lack of clarity around this project and cited media coverage from August questioning the decision. He pointed to other Montreal projects, such as the proposed extension of the Camillien-Houde bike path, that could potentially be revisited after public backlash, and asked why the same could not happen here.

The mayor refused to comment, noting that the issue had been framed in the context of upcoming elections and repeating that she will not be seeking another term.

As the exchanges grew tense, another parent pressed the borough on consultation. The mayor's tone shifted, pushing back on claims that the public had been excluded. She insisted that the borough could still work effectively with the baseball association.

The back-and-forth culminated in a dramatic walkout: about 20 players, parents, and coaches rose from their seats and left the chamber



A packed room featuring over a dozen baseball players and coaches watch as resident Sébastien Despelteau and his daughter press the council about Prévost Park's baseball diamond destruction. (Photo: Dylan Adams Lemaçon, North Shore News)

together.

After the meeting, Brossard spoke further about the personal toll of the baseball dispute. As a volunteer president, father, and full-time worker, he said it is difficult to shoulder the burden of advocating for his association. He believes the borough should be supporting volunteers, not making their role harder.

Other issues raised

Later in the session, longtime resident Mr. Fitzsimmons once again sought clearer information about traffic-calming measures planned near his home on Everett street.

Other citizens raised concerns about a lack

of consultation on unrelated projects, infrastructure maintenance, and the state of private properties affecting neighbors. One complaint came from Pierre Deschênes, who said the borough has neglected to maintain a belvedere in his area. The mayor defended the administration's efforts to maintain the boroughs clean image, pointing to initiatives like "Bye Bye Béton" but Councillor Deros agreed with Deschênes, saying more needs to be done.

Another citizen described ongoing problems with tree branches falling onto his property from what he described as an abandoned site. Deros, already familiar with the case, pressed the administration to intervene.



Father and daughter listen in on the council's response to the many questions involving the demolition of the baseball diamond at Prévost Park. One of the many families affected by this project. (Photo: Dylan Adams Lemaçon, North Shore News)

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George Bakoyannis
George S. Guzman

General Director:

George Bakoyannis

VP Sales & Marketing:

George S. Guzman
sales@newsfirst.ca

Graphic Design:

Lareine Zakhour
Elena Molter
Thomas Bakoyannis

Advertising:

George S. Guzman

Editorial Staff:

Martin C. Barry
Matthew Daldalian
Dylan Adams Lemaçon
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OPINION & Editorial



Poilievre is the one thing standing in Poilievre's way

It wasn't the Liberals who cost Poilievre the election. It was the image he projected and the movements he chose to align with

Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre has cleared the first hurdle in his post-election redemption tour—winning his own seat back in an Aug. 19 byelection. Granted, it was the easy one. What lies ahead makes a root canal look like a day at the spa.

If Poilievre wants to become prime minister, he'll need to stop barking and start leading. Canadians got more than their fill of the growling Opposition pit bull. Now, they'll want to see someone who can govern—not just hurl grenades from across the aisle.

As expected, Poilievre coasted to victory in Alberta's Battle River–Crowfoot riding, pulling in a whopping 80.4 per cent of the vote. It was hardly a race, though that didn't stop the media from breathlessly trying to manufacture one. Even a ballot littered with 214 mostly fake candidates, courtesy of a mischief-making electoral reform campaign, couldn't trip him up.

But that was the warm-up act. The real show starts in January, when Poilievre faces a party leadership review. And let's be honest, some Conservatives are still scratching their heads, wondering how a guy who blew a 25-point lead to the most tired, scandal-plagued Liberal government in recent memory is still calling the shots.

Sure, the party faithful can point fingers: Donald Trump took a swipe at Canada and lit a fire under national anxiety. Mark Carney popped up looking like the Liberals' knight in shining economic armour. And Poilievre's campaign—courtesy of the ever-strategic Jenni Byrne—misread the mood with the precision

of a broken weathervane. But let's not kid ourselves. Those excuses don't hold water.

The blunt truth? Voters saw the scowling, slogan-slinging Poilievre, heard what he was selling, and said, "No thanks." After a decade of Liberal drift, the country was primed for change. All Poilievre had to do was not scare people. Instead, he fumbled the moment.

Two things blew it for him.

First, in the showdown over who could stand up to Trump, Canadians bet on the guy with actual financial gravitas. Mark Carney—former governor of not one but two central banks—looked like the adult in the room. Poilievre? Too many Canadians saw him as Trump-adjacent, with all the bluster and none of the credibility. Even Trump has had warmer words for Carney than for Poilievre, which says something.

Second, Poilievre tried so hard to keep the Conservative tent "big" that he rolled out the welcome mat for the fringe. He didn't lose his Ottawa seat because he forgot the potholes—he lost it because he hitched his wagon to the Freedom Convoy, that anarchist tailgate party that brought downtown Ottawa to a screeching halt. Voters in his own riding watched their MP cheer for the chaos. They didn't forget.

In that, Poilievre is channelling his ideological twin in Alberta, Danielle Smith. Both have mistaken the noisy minority for the silent majority. In pandering to people who won't be satisfied no matter what, they've alienated the moderates they need to win. Worse, he spooked progressive and centrist voters into backing the Liberals just to keep him out.

And then there's the women's vote—or lack of it. A recent Angus Reid poll shows 64 per cent of women have a negative view of Poilievre. That's not just a crack in the base. It's a canyon.

So here's the thing: if he survives the leadership review in January, Poilievre will need a full-blown political makeover. Less "Dr. No," more "Here's how." Enough with the attack ads: It's time to offer actual solutions to issues like Canada's tariff crisis. If he wants to land punches on Carney, he'd better throw something more substantive than "He's doing a bad job."

He needs to show Canadians that behind the slogans is someone with the depth and maturity to lead. Someone who can unite, not just divide.

Even Ontario Premier Doug Ford, not exactly the gold standard for tact and diplomacy, offered advice that Poilievre might consider: "Work with the prime minister—as Team Canada." Being the Opposition leader isn't just about throwing rocks from the cheap seats. It's about proving you can rise above partisanship when the country needs it. And if Poilievre doesn't like Ford's advice, he might want to count up the majority governments. Ford: three. Poilievre: still waiting.

Bottom line? The job ahead is no cakewalk. Judging from his stiff, scripted performances, it's fair to wonder whether he has the range. But the path is clear enough. Either he swallows his pride and changes course, or he cements his place as a colourful footnote in Canadian political history—remembered not for winning power, but for throwing it away.

Doug Firby

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Affordable housing crunch feels acute in Parc-Extension

DIMITRIS ILIAS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter for Parc-Extension News
dimitri@newsfirst.ca

Montreal continues to grapple with a housing affordability crisis—and among the neighbourhoods most affected is Parc-Extension. A June 2025 report by Statistics Canada reveals that asking rents for two-bedroom apartments surged nearly 71 percent between 2019 and early 2025, climbing from about \$1,130 to around \$1,930 monthly.

Locally, renters tell a familiar story: rent hikes of approximately 16 percent over the past year in Parc-Extension, according to Amy Darwish of the Comité d'action de Parc-Extension. This jump has compounded pressure on newcomers and long-term residents alike.

Meanwhile, broader rental metrics affirm the strain across the region. The CMHC reported a 7.7 percent year-over-year increase in average rents for two-bedroom apartments in the first quarter of 2025 compared to the previous year, up from 11.7 percent the year before.

Also, Montreal averaged a 2 percent rise in asking rents during the same quarter.

Despite signs of supply growth—with tens of thousands of rental starts underway—the market remains tight. Parc-Extension, traditionally one of the city's more affordable areas, still faces affordability challenges, even though recent data identifies Villeray-Parc-Extension as consistently among the least expensive, averaging \$1,522 for a one-bedroom unit in early 2025.

The implications are clear: many tenants are being priced out or pushed into overcrowded or insecure housing. With rental increases far exceeding general inflation, financial and housing stability is increasingly elusive for families in Parc-Extension.

Montreal's housing crunch calls for meaningful intervention—whether through expanding social housing, strengthening rent controls, or enforcing policy mechanisms like short-term rental restrictions. Until then, residents in neighborhoods like Parc-Extension will continue to shoulder the brunt of a citywide affordability crisis.



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Canadians see cost of living, housing, and healthcare as bigger threat than Trump's policies

BY EDDIE SHEPPARD & DAVID COLETTA

As the Liberal cabinet meets this week and Parliament prepares to resume, new polling shows a growing divide between what Canadians want their leaders to prioritize and what they believe Ottawa is actually focused on. Between August 28 and September 2, 2025, Abacus Data conducted a national poll with 1,500 Canadians (aged 18+) to explore whether Canadians feel the federal government is directing its attention to the issues that matter most, both at home and abroad.

While Canadians recognize that managing Donald Trump's policies is critically important – especially for trade, security, and the economy – many fear it may be taking too much attention away from urgent challenges at home, like housing affordability, healthcare, and rising costs.

A perception gap at the heart of politics

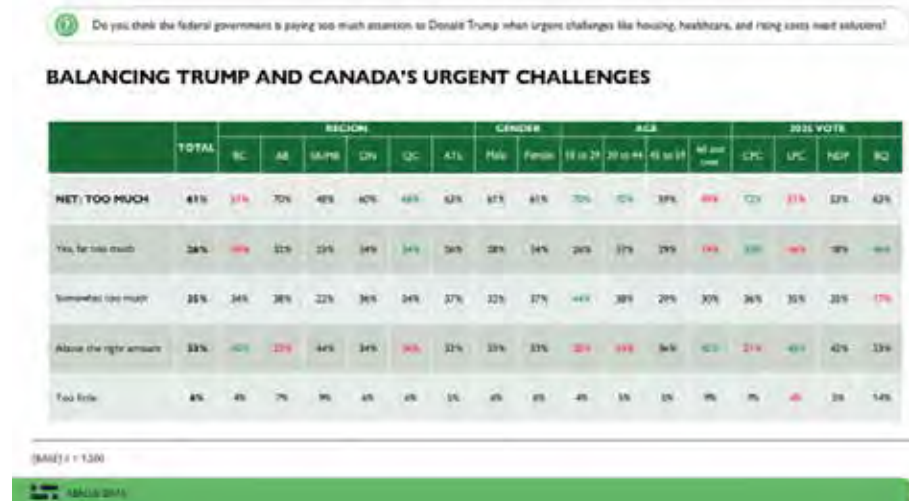
Six in ten Canadians (61%) believe the federal

government is paying too much attention on Donald Trump when urgent domestic challenges – like housing, healthcare, and rising costs – need solutions, while just one in three (33%) think Ottawa is focusing the right amount of attention to Trump.

It's worth noting that while dealing with the Trump administration and securing a trade deal is critical to many of those same domestic issues, there is a gap in people's views.

This concern cuts across demographics. Younger Canadians are especially critical, with 70% of those aged 18–44 saying the government is too focused on Donald Trump. Even among Liberal voters, more than half (51%) believe their government is distracted by Trump when pressing domestic problems remain unresolved (compared to 45% who believe it is the right amount of attention).

As Parliament gets set to resume, this perception gap will shape how Canadians judge the government's performance, and whether they believe Ottawa can balance international chal-



lenges with urgent priorities at home. It's also an important signal for government to really think about how it frames the work its doing and whether or not its reaching all audiences with its communications.

Next 2 years: domestic issues seen as the greater threat

When looking ahead to the next two years, most Canadians see domestic challenges as the bigger threat:

- 60% say issues like housing affordability, healthcare, and rising costs pose the greatest risk to the country.
- 40% believe Trump's policies and unpredictability are the larger danger.

Younger Canadians are especially concerned about domestic challenges, while older Canadians are more evenly split. Politically,

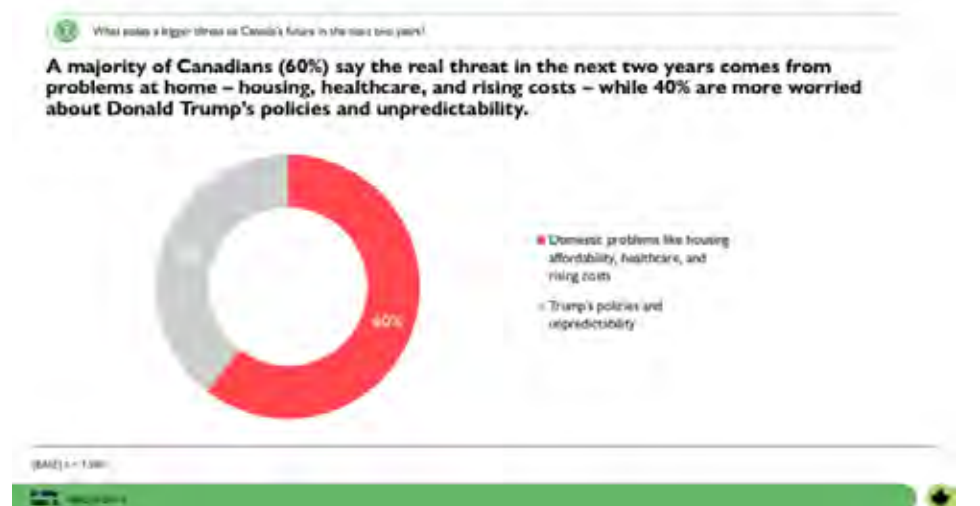
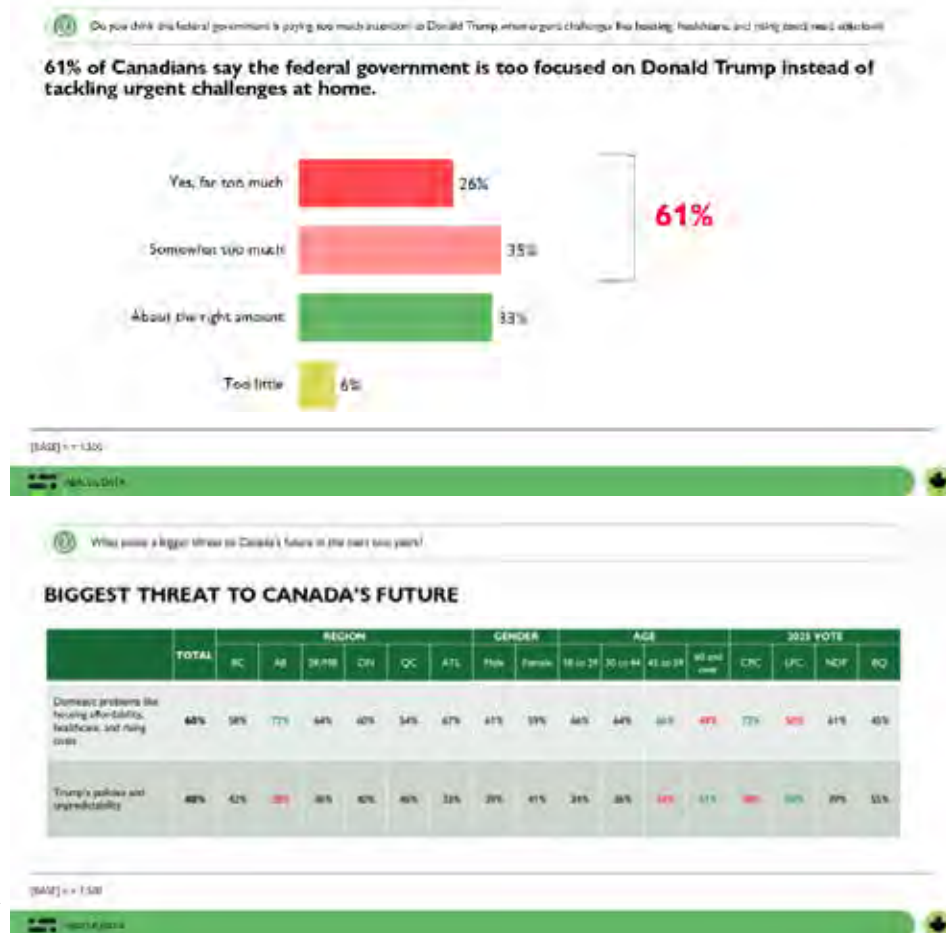
Conservative voters are far more likely to see domestic crises as the bigger danger, while Liberal voters are evenly divided.

This indicates that while Canadians understand the significance of Trump's influence, their priority remains solving urgent problems at home. To build their trust, the federal government must clearly demonstrate how tackling global challenges will lead to meaningful, tangible improvements in Canadians' everyday lives, showing how actions on the world stage directly translate into progress on housing, healthcare, and affordability.

Families are feeling the strain

This sentiment becomes even sharper at the personal level. Nearly eight in ten Canadians

► Continued on page 9



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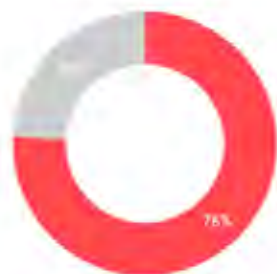
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At this point, should Canada's leaders spend more time:

Currently, three in four Canadians (76%) say the country's leaders should prioritize fixing housing, healthcare, and affordability at home, while just 24% want them focused on managing the impact of Trump's policies.



Fixing housing, healthcare, and affordability at home

Managing the impact of Trump's policies

How likely do you think it is that Mark Carney will secure a fair trade deal with the U.S. under Donald Trump?

Canadians are split on whether Mark Carney could secure a fair trade deal with the U.S. under Donald Trump: 38% believe such a deal is likely, while 47% consider it unlikely.



38%

47%

◀ Continued from page 8

(79%) say rising costs, housing, and healthcare will have a greater impact on their families over the next two years than U.S. tariffs or trade policies (21%).

Again, this suggests that people may not understand the relationship between Trump's trade policies and domestic micro-economic and social issues. The federal government may need to spend more time connecting the dots for Canadians, explaining why getting a deal and why it's focusing so much on getting that deal, is important to everything else.

This perspective cuts across all regions, age groups, and political leanings, with the strongest concern among middle-aged Canadians juggling mortgages, childcare, and aging parents (83% of 30-44 and 86% of 45-59). Even among Liberal voters, 71% admit their day-to-day struggles are shaped far more by domestic affordability challenges than by Trump's actions abroad.

What Canadians want leaders to prioritize

Three in four Canadians (76%) believe federal leaders should spend more time fixing problems at home – housing, healthcare, and affordability – while just 24% want them focused on managing Trump's policies.

This consensus spans party lines: 82% of Conservative voters and 69% of Liberal supporters agree that domestic issues must come first.

The takeaway for Ottawa is clear: Canadians expect their leaders to keep their eyes firmly on challenges at home, even while managing the complexities of the U.S. relationship.

Canadians divided on Trump and trade

While Canadians want their leaders to focus on domestic issues, they also recognize that Trump matters. But they are divided on whether Prime Minister Mark Carney can successfully navigate a trade deal – 38% believe Carney is likely to secure a fair trade deal with the U.S. under Trump while 47% believe it is unlikely. Younger Canadians and Liberal voters tend to be more optimistic, while older Canadians and Conservatives are far more skeptical.

This split highlights two things. One, that many Canadians don't think a secure and fair trade deal with the U.S. is likely to happen – either because they don't think Trump will ever agree to one or because they don't think the Carney government can achieve it. Second, it also suggests that only a small minority of Canadians expect one to be reached, providing evidence that the Carney government may not be blamed if a good deal is not achieved.

Exhaustion with Trump coverage

Perhaps the strongest signal in the data is emotional: 85% of Canadians say they are tired of hearing about Donald Trump.

This fatigue is shared across the political spectrum – 87% of Conservative voters and 82% of

Liberal voters feel the same way.

Canadians understand that managing Trump and his policies is important, but they don't want it dominating headlines or overshadowing the urgent problems they face at home – like housing, healthcare, and rising costs – that demand immediate attention.

The upshot

Managing Trump's unpredictability is undeniably important for Canada's future and a key concern for governments at every level. Getting it right creates an opportunity to build trust and momentum, showing Canadians that skillful management of global challenges can lead to stability, growth, and meaningful improvements in their daily lives. Getting it wrong, however, could derail progress on every other priority, undermining public confidence and leaving Canadians feeling unprotected both at home and abroad.

This is where the perception gap emerges. While Ottawa may view global negotiations and U.S. relations as essential to Canada's long-term stability, most Canadians are focused on the here and now – housing they can afford, healthcare they can access, and rising costs they can manage. For many, these urgent domestic crises feel disconnected from the government's trade agenda, fueling a sense that their immediate struggles are being overshadowed by debates and decisions that seem distant from their daily lives.

To close this gap, Ottawa must help Canadians see the connections between the macro and the micro. Decisions about trade, cross-border

tensions, and economic stability need to be clearly linked to tangible, local benefits. Canadians need to understand how actions taken on the global stage lead to shorter ER waits, more affordable groceries, and greater housing stability. Voters are open to growth and stability narratives – but only if they feel real, relevant, and fair.

As Parliament resumes, the challenge for the Liberals isn't just navigating Trump; it's convincing Canadians that their government understands what matters most to them and can deliver on it. This means demonstrating that every move – whether a trade negotiation or a response to Trump's policies – has a direct and visible payoff for Canadians at home.

For the Conservatives, the opportunity lies in positioning themselves as the party laser-focused on the everyday struggles Canadians face. By framing the Liberals as distracted by international affairs and disconnected from real-world challenges, they can make the case that they are the party best equipped to restore balance and put domestic priorities first.

In the months ahead, the battle won't just be about Trump or trade deals. It will be about whether Canadians believe their government understands what they need and is focused on delivering it. The party that closes this perception gap will not only win the political debate but will define the direction of the country heading into the next election.

At this point, should Canada's leaders spend more time:

CANADIAN LEADERSHIP PRIORITIES

	TOTAL	BC	AB	SK/MB	ON	QC	ATL	PR	Female	18 to 29	30 to 44	45 to 59	60 and over	Cons	Lib	NDP	PG
Fixing housing, healthcare, and affordability at home	76%	74%	81%	81%	77%	75%	80%	74%	77%	77%	81%	79%	89%	82%	69%	87%	72%
Managing the impact of Trump's policies	24%	26%	19%	19%	23%	25%	20%	26%	23%	23%	19%	21%	11%	18%	31%	13%	28%

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Rising transit costs add pressure for Montreal commuters



DIMITRIS ILIAS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter for Parc-Extension News
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Public transit users across Greater Montreal are adjusting to higher costs after the Autorité régionale de transport métropolitain (ARTM) introduced new fare rates in July.

The adult monthly pass for the STM network, known as the "All Modes A" pass, increased to \$103, up from \$97 in 2024. A single ticket now costs \$3.90, compared with \$3.75 last year. Similar increases have been applied across other

categories, including reduced-rate passes for youth and seniors, according to ARTM's official fare chart.

The ARTM stated that the hikes are necessary to offset inflation and rising operating costs while maintaining investments in service.

Neighbourhoods with higher proportions of low-income families and newcomers — including Parc-Extension — rely heavily on public transit for work, school, and daily errands. For residents without access to cars, fare hikes leave few alternatives.

The STM reported a 9 percent increase in ridership in 2024, a sign that more Montrealers are returning to buses and the Metro after pandemic lows. With demand climbing, transit affordability has become a growing concern among community organizations and policy observers.

The ARTM has emphasized that Montreal's fare structure remains competitive compared with other major Canadian cities. Still, with the cost of living rising across Quebec, the balance between financial sustainability and equitable

access to public transit remains a pressing issue for thousands of daily commuters.

The ARTM has maintained that the fare structure remains competitive compared with other major Canadian cities. Still, Montreal's rising cost of living continues to spark debate about how to balance financial sustainability with equitable access.

For now, commuters across the island are feeling the difference each time they load their OPUS cards — a small change in numbers that represents a significant shift in daily budgets.



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Rising grocery prices deepen food insecurity in Parc-Extension

DIMITRIS ILIAS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter for Parc-Extension News
dimitri@newsfirst.ca

As Montreal families settle into the fall routine, the reality of rising grocery bills is once again hitting hard. Inflation on food, while slowing compared to last year's peak, remains above the overall inflation rate in Quebec. For neighbourhoods like Parc-Extension, where household incomes are among the lowest in the city, even small price hikes can create ripple effects on daily life.

Statistics Canada's most recent data show food inflation in Quebec hovering around 3.8% year-over-year in August 2025. Essentials like fresh produce, dairy, and bread remain costly, while prepared foods and meat have seen some of the steepest increases. Families that once managed a modest weekly budget are now forced to make difficult choices about what to put in their carts.

Parc-Extension's streets are dotted with small ethnic grocery stores, offering everything from South Asian spices to Mediterranean staples.

While these shops provide cultural comfort and affordable alternatives to big-box chains, even they have been unable to absorb the full impact of wholesale price increases.

Community organizations have stepped in to fill the gap. Local food banks and collective kitchens in the borough of Villeray-Saint-Michel-Parc-Extension report rising demand, particularly from newcomer families with young children. At the same time, donations have not kept pace with the surge, stretching resources thin.

Montreal has attempted to respond to food insecurity through urban agriculture projects, subsidies for collective gardens, and pilot programs to reduce food waste. Parc-Extension, with its limited green space, presents challenges but also opportunities: community gardens and rooftop farming initiatives are increasingly seen as practical solutions.

City-wide, advocacy groups continue to call for stronger provincial action, such as indexing social assistance rates to inflation and creating targeted grocery subsidies for low-income

households. For many Parc-Ex families, such measures could mean the difference between stability and constant uncertainty at the check-out counter.

As the cost of living continues to climb,

Parc-Extension illustrates the human side of Montreal's inflation story: a diverse community resilient in the face of economic stress, yet increasingly dependent on support systems to ensure that no child goes hungry.

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DIRECT ANSWERS

FROM WAYNE & TAMARA

UNFAIR PRACTICES

Q I work for a small company that offers several online courses that start new every month. The start date is the third Wednesday of the month.

Three weeks in advance, I requested an hour off on the Monday of last month's start week, to take my daughter for her one-year checkup and shots. My boss denied the request because it was a start week. Then she sent an email emphatically stating that no time off will be given during start week.

This was last month. This month another new mother in my department took the actual start day completely off to take her daughter to the doctor for a checkup and shots. She was allowed to do this by our boss.

Because of her denial for my hour's early leave, I had to reschedule my daughter, making her two months late for this checkup and shots. This seems to be a double standard, and I am unsure how to approach this issue.

Millie

A Millie, a few years ago primatologists Frans de Waal and Sarah Brosnan reported an experiment they did with capuchin monkeys. Capuchins like cucumbers but they love grapes.

The capuchins were trained to exchange pebbles for food, and when one monkey got a grape for a pebble, while another got cucumber, the second monkey was miffed. That monkey might throw the cucumber away or refuse to pay a pebble for it.

de Waal noted that we are taught to believe fairness is an idea developed by wise people. Actually, the idea may be wired into our genes. That's why you feel angry, insulted, and embarrassed.

The question is, what to do about it? The standard advice says communication is the key. Don't get emotional, document what happened, and pick an opportune time to discuss this with your boss. But if you

felt you could talk to your boss, or if your company had firm procedures, you would not be writing.

Here's the problem. Shove the idea of fair play into the face of someone who does not play fair, and it could backfire. Whistleblowers don't usually get rewarded. They get sacked. And people who hold grudges remember every slight, every roll of the eyes, and every slow response to, "I'm right, aren't I?"

There are only two good answers to unfairness in the workplace: rank so high in the social network you are protected, or perform your job so well you are indispensable. You'd like to have an hour-long bitchfest with your girlfriend, drown your sorrows in chocolate cake, and then tell your boss where to go. But you know that won't do any good.

What will help is asking yourself the most basic questions. Why did someone get a day off when I could not get off even for an hour? Am I held in low esteem here? Are the rules quirky and capricious? Is my boss unapproachable? Answer those questions and a strategy will emerge.

If communication is out of the question, make sure the favored people don't know of your resentment and find an outlet for your anger. We don't normally recommend this kind of gamesmanship because it comes with a high emotional cost. Unfairness makes us wear even more of a masked face than we typically wear in public.

If you are deeply upset with what happened yet powerless to change it, you have to get out of that zone. Tonight, instead of watching a movie on Netflix, spend two hours working over your resume, looking at job postings, or upgrading your skills.

We have to react productively to the foibles of those in power. If you believe the chef will spit on your food if you send it back, the only power you have is not to go there again.

Wayne & Tamara

WAYNE & TAMARA MITCHELL are the authors of YOUR OTHER HALF (www.yourotherhalf.com)

Send letters to: Direct Answers, PO 964 Springfield, MO 65801-0964

or email: GetInTouch@WayneAndTamara.com

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- Strawberries (Ontario)
- Large Canary Melon
- Mini Bell Peppers (Québec)
- Green Beans (Québec)
- Zucchini (2) (Québec)
- Portobello Mushrooms (3) (Québec)
- Corn on the Cob (3) (Québec)
- Cabbage (Québec)
- Bananas (4-5)
- Oranges Cara Cara (3)
- Green Apples (3)
- Garlic (Espagne)
- Lettuce (Québec)
- Grape Tomatoes (Québec)
- Potatoes (~3lbs) (Québec)
- Small Leek (Québec)

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2 EASY STEPS:

- 1 Book your basket online or by phone from Monday to Thursday
- 2 Pickup Thursday, Friday or Saturday. Delivery available

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HOROSCOPE

Week of September 14 to 20, 2025

The luckiest signs this week:
VIRGO, LIBRA AND SCORPIO



ARIES

This week, you'll be in high demand with your clients and loved ones. Your efficiency will put you in the spotlight. If you're single, love may surprise you when you least expect it.



TAURUS

Don't be surprised if you find yourself falling in love this week—with a vehicle! If you're patient, the salesperson could sweeten the deal with an even better offer. At work, your team will support you when your workload feels overwhelming.



GEMINI

Take a fresh look at your budget. You might find you can afford a little more luxury, like an unforgettable romantic getaway. Change will be highly beneficial at work, especially if you overcome your fear of the unknown.



CANCER

It's time for change, whether in your relationship, household or work life. Let your emotions settle, and resist the urge to make hasty decisions. Some decisions take time to think through; impulsiveness won't serve you well.



LEO

Your loved ones will encourage you to do more to treat yourself. You may decide to indulge in self-pampering, perhaps with a new look or by following the advice of an expert. Calm your anxiety to regain your energy.



VIRGO

Get ready to steal the spotlight this week as you attract attention in unexpected ways. You'll lead a group that will acknowledge your hard work. A well-deserved promotion awaits you. You'll be recognized for your achievements.



LIBRA

If a joyful event, like a birth, is on the horizon for your family, you may also experience a home relocation in the near future. Be sensitive to those around you who may feel vulnerable during this time; your support will mean a lot to them.



SCORPIO

Prepare for lively discussions, especially at work, where you'll be at the heart of the conversation. This is your chance to expand your professional and personal networks. You'll forge new friendships, leading to enjoyable, enriching experiences.



SAGITTARIUS

You'll manage to get out of a tricky financial situation this week. You must carefully choose your words to persuade those around you. In your love life, clear and open communication will help strengthen your relationship.



CAPRICORN

You'll have to make a decision without having all the facts. Trust your instincts and judgment to make the right choice. Avoid long-term financial commitments this week, as they could add unnecessary stress.



AQUARIUS

A tempting work proposal will come your way. Take the time to discuss it with your loved ones before deciding, even if it's your dream job. In your relationship, affection will come naturally as soon as you're in the right mindset to receive it.



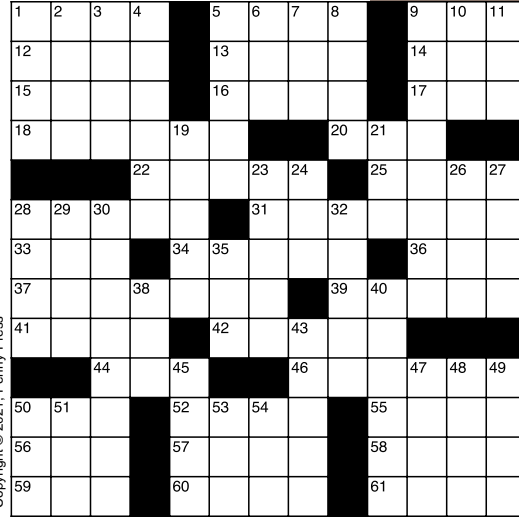
PISCES

You'll spend a lot of time on social media this week. If you want to reignite passion in your relationship, consider doing more to include your partner in your activities. At work, your expertise will be invaluable to your team.

Coffee Break

CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 287



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ACROSS

1. "___ Old House"
5. Untidy condition
9. For what ___ worth
12. Sprint
13. Kind of exam
14. Touch-me-___
15. Higher than
16. City auto
17. Bashful
18. Cease
20. ___ your request
22. African shrubs
25. Dancer's jump
28. Winesap, e.g.
31. Wrap
33. Grief
34. Choice group
36. Alter a skirt
37. Springy
39. Legal papers
41. Mediocre: hyph.
42. Literary composition

DOWN

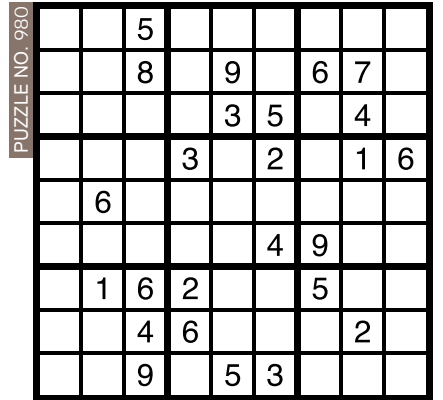
44. Promos
46. Small earthquake
50. Restrict
52. Up to the task
55. Volcanic flow
56. Appear onstage
57. Glide aloft
58. Separate article
59. Word of permission
60. Goldie ___ of films
61. Animal shelters
11. Porker's pen
19. Icy rain
21. Forest animal
23. Heroic stories
24. Posed
26. Like some wine
27. Church furniture
28. Fills with wonder
29. Game on horseback
30. Farm laborers
32. Fragrant wood
35. Falsehood
38. Grass-covered ground
40. Facial feature
43. Rigid
45. Soft belt
47. Chess term
48. Kitchen cooker
49. Flock papas
50. ___ leaf
51. Maven
53. Feathered neckwear
54. Decree

Sudoku

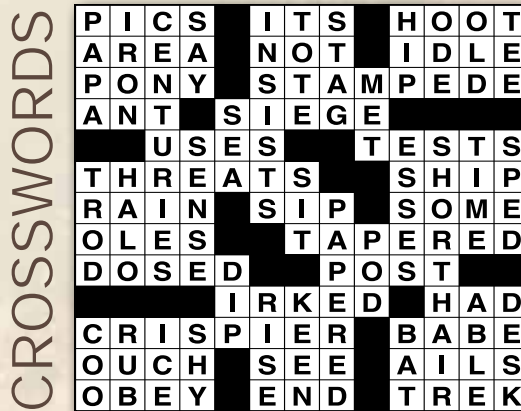
HOW TO PLAY:

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 only once.

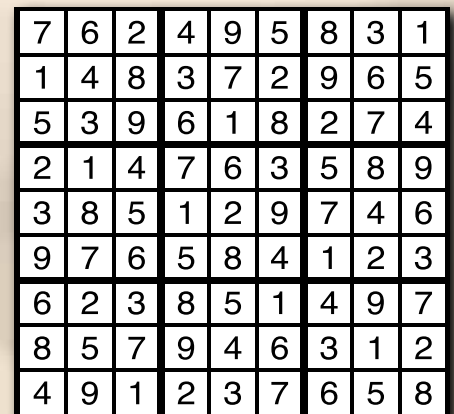
Each 3x3 box is outlined with a darker line. You already have a few numbers to get you started. Remember: You must not repeat the numbers 1 through 9 in the same line, column, or 3x3 box.



Last Issue's Answers



Sudoku



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